

Appl. No.: 09/890,696  
Amendment Dated: November 1, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of 08/02/2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

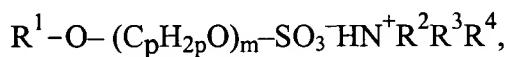
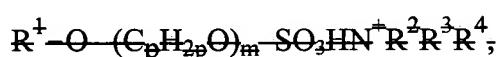
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1-10 **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Currently Amended)** A microemulsion comprising:

(A) 0.5 to 70% by weight of the alkanolammonium salts of alkylsulfates and alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates having the structure:



wherein

$R^1$  is a  $C_8$ - to  $C_{20}$ -hydrocarbon residue,

$p$  is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein  $p$  can be different for each  $m$ ,

$R^2$  is H, a  $C_1$ - to  $C_6$ -alkyl, or a  $C_2$ - to  $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl,

$R^3$  is H, a  $C_1$ - to  $C_6$ -alkyl, or a  $C_2$ - to  $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl,

$R^4$  is a hydroxyisopropyl, and

$m$  is an integer from 0 to 7,

and mixtures thereof;

(B) 20 to 95% by weight water;

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- (C) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one oil component; and
- (D) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one mono- or polyvalent C<sub>2</sub>- to C<sub>24</sub>-alcohol,  
each based on the total composition of the microemulsion.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The microemulsion according to claim 11, wherein the alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates comprise the following residue or indices:

R<sup>1</sup> is a linear and ~~or~~-saturated C<sub>12</sub>- to C<sub>16</sub>-alkyl residue,

p is 2 or 3, wherein p can be different for each m,

R<sup>2</sup> is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R<sup>3</sup> is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R<sup>4</sup> is hydroxyisopropyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 2.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, wherein the microemulsion contains component

- (A) in an amount of 2 to 60% by weight,
- (B) in an amount of 30 to 80% by weight,
- (C) in an amount of 0.5 to 15% by weight, and

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(D) in an amount of 0.1 to 9% by weight.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, further containing at least one of the following components:
  - (E) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one surfactant,
  - (F) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one electrolyte, and
  - (G) 0 to 10% by weight of at least one additive, wherein (F) and (G) are exclusive of any ionic surfactant.
15. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to claim 14, containing at least one of the following components:
  - (E) at least one additional surfactant comprising a triglyceride alkoxyolated with ethyleneoxide and/or propyleneoxide and at least partially esterified with a C<sub>6</sub>- to C<sub>22</sub>-fatty acid, and
  - (G) at least one additive comprising a poly(C<sub>2</sub>- to C<sub>4</sub>-)alkyleneglycol having a molecular weight of up to 1,500 g/mole.
16. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, wherein the oil component (C) contains one or more components selected from the group

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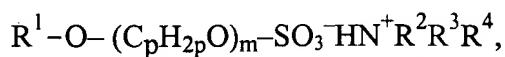
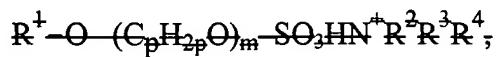
consisting of lecithins; mono-, di-, and/or triglycerides of saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 8 to 24 carbon atoms; branched and/or linear hydrocarbons; waxes; petroleum jelly; paraffin oils; polyolefins; silicone oils; esters of saturated, unsaturated, and/or aromatic, branched and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms; and saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear alcohols having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that the microemulsion is a stable and transparent emulsion, the disperse phase thereof having an average particle size of less than 100 nm.

18-19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** A microemulsion consisting essentially of:

(A) 0.5 to 70% by weight alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkyl-polyalkyleneglycolethersulfates having the structure:



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wherein

R4-R<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>8</sub>- to C<sub>20</sub>-hydrocarbon residue,

p is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein p can be different for each m,

R<sup>2</sup> is H, a C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, or hydroxyisopropyl,

R<sup>3</sup> is H, a C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, or ~~to~~-C<sub>4</sub>-hydroxyisopropyl,

R<sup>4</sup> is a hydroxyisopropyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 7,

and mixtures thereof;

- (B) 20 to 95% by weight water, and
- (C) 0.1 to 20% by weight one or more oil component(s), and
- (D) 0.1 to 20% by weight of one or more mono- or polyvalent C<sub>2</sub>- to C<sub>24</sub>-alcohol(s),

and optionally

- (E) 0 to 20% by weight of one or more additional surfactant(s)
- (F) 0 to 20% by weight of one or more electrolyte(s), and
- (G) 0 to 10% by weight of one or more additive(s)

each based on the total composition, and

wherein no compound falls under two categories of (A) to (G) at the same time.